

House Joint Resolution 87 to determine if we are going to ship deadly, high-level nuclear waste through America's cities and towns, through our neighborhoods, and past our schools, hospitals and houses of worship. If you vote for this resolution, that is what you will be doing, sending over 100,000 massive shipments of highly radioactive waste through the communities you represent, shipments that would be rolling on our roads and our rails every day for the next 30 years.

A single accident would threaten the health of thousands, cost billions to clean up, and forever ruin property values. If you do not think this can happen and will, think again. Just follow the headlines of transportation disasters we see almost weekly. Someday, instead of gasoline or chemicals, the disasters will involve nuclear waste. Could you look at your constituents and their children and look them in the eye and tell them you voted for a resolution that allowed a massive catastrophe to ruin their lives?

Vote "no" on House Joint Resolution 87 for the sake of your families, the sake of your constituents.

#### MAKE THE BUSH TAX CUTS PERMANENT

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, American families have recently completed the dreaded chore of preparing their tax returns, but this year, many found a bonus. The IRS reports that the average income tax refund is over \$1,000, significantly higher than last year. What does this mean? Taxpayers are reaping the benefits of the Bush tax cut. Here in Congress, we should be proud of the cut that enables families to keep more of what they earn and for causing the economy to rebound as well.

But there is trouble on the horizon. Unless Congress takes action, this significant tax cut will expire in the year 2010 and our taxes will be raised.

It was over 2 centuries ago that Benjamin Franklin said, "Nothing is certain but death and taxes." While death and taxes may be certain, the death of this tax cut does not have to be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to act now to ensure that President Bush's tax relief is made permanent.

#### BENEFITS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me quickly join in with my colleagues from California and Texas and others of goodwill to oppose the amendment that will be on the

floor today to deny legal immigrants, individuals who are accessing legalization, accessing citizenship, paying taxes, but, most of all, giving of their lives so that we might be free. What a tragedy. How heinous. I ask my colleagues to vote enthusiastically against denying legal immigrants their rightful benefits.

Let me move very quickly to my disappointment with the media who has now assessed Secretary Powell's trip as a failure. The Washington Post: "Powell to end trip without a cease-fire. Sides failed to agree to talk." Electronic media reported "Powell's trip unravels."

Let me just simply say that peace is long-standing. It is not for the impatient. Our lives depend on it. This administration must continue to engage. We must provide a constructive proposal, we must help, in order to have peace in the Mideast.

Secretary Powell must return to the Mideast.

#### BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESSES TO CONTINUE WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take my 1 minute to talk about the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, one of the greatest public policy successes in half a century. This body will soon have the opportunity to continue the remarkable progress made over the past 6 years when we reauthorize the law.

Our Nation has seen a dramatic 56 percent drop in welfare caseloads as more families have broken the cycle of poverty and replaced welfare checks with paychecks. Welfare rolls are at their lowest levels since 1965, and more than 2 million children have been rescued from poverty, a remarkable success.

The reauthorization will allow us to build on the principles which have helped more Americans achieve self-reliance. It contains a strong work requirement, continues the focus on protecting children, and strengthening families, and gives more States flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, the emphasis on work and strengthening families in this new initiative represents a winning formula to put more needy Americans on the path toward a brighter future.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that a majority of Americans believe that we should do more, not less, to protect our environment, President Bush is pursuing several policies to roll back environmental progress.

Let us look at our national parks. Despite the clear evidence that snow-

mobile use is not compatible with the preservation and public enjoyment of Yellowstone, our world's oldest national park, the President is pushing to roll back a rule that would prevent snowmobile use there, a rule that the EPA said was among the most thorough and substantial scientifically based rules they had seen.

Right now, the administration and the Republican majority here is also trying to roll back a ban on personal watercraft like jet skis in our national parks, despite the clear indication from rangers that these have a negative effect on the enjoyment and preservation of the parks.

Mr. Speaker, our environment and our national parks belong to all of us, and we cannot let these series of environmental rollbacks ruin them for us.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN PRODUCTIVE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, what do all these things have in common? Trade promotional authority, the energy bill, the job stimulus bill, the terrorist insurance bill, faith-based initiative; in fact, 51 bills all in common, plus 90 appointments for judges? What they all have in common is they have not been acted upon by the other body.

The American people elected a Republican House and we have been productive over here. Governors, CEOs, coaches, deserve to have their team in place.

We need the other body to act to put the administration's team in place and address the 51-plus bills that are in need of action.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRANK. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman should not urge action in the other body. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, we need to expedite and to take the bills that were in the House and get them passed by the other body.

The American people want action by its elected officials here in Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to action in the other body.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER TO OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Ludwig Koons still has not been returned from